

Appl. No. 09/482,691
Atty. Docket No. 6553D
Amdt. dated June 27, 2003
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 20 (*Previously Cancelled*)

Claim 21. (*Currently Amended*) An implement for cleaning a surface, the implement comprising:

- a. a handle comprising a support head at one end; and
- b. a disposable and removable cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension and wherein the cleaning pad comprises:
 - i. a scrubbing layer;
 - ii. an absorbent layer in direct fluid communication with the scrubbing layer wherein the absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material; and
 - iii. an attachment layer for releasably attaching said cleaning pad to said handle that, wherein said attachment layer is essentially fluid impervious.

Claim 22. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the support head comprises an upper surface that is attached to the handle and a lower surface that comprises hooks for releasably attaching the cleaning pad to the support head.

Claim 23. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the cleaning pad has a squeeze-out value of not more than about 25% under 0.25 psi of pressure.

Claim 24. (*Previously Cancelled*)

Claim 25. (*Previously amended*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the absorbent layer comprises at least about 15%, by total weight of the absorbent layer, of the superabsorbent material.

Claim 26. (*Original*) The cleaning implement of Claim 21 wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of superabsorbent gelling polymers and hydrophilic polymeric absorbent foams.

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Claim 27. (Previously Amended) An implement for cleaning a surface, the implement comprising:

a. a handle comprising a support head having a top surface and a bottom surface, said support head comprising hooks permanently affixed to said bottom surface of said support head; and

b. a removable cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension, and wherein the cleaning pad comprises:

i. a scrubbing layer;

ii. an absorbent layer; and

iii. an attachment layer comprising a material that is essentially fluid impervious and at least one surface which is mechanically attachable to said hooks affixed to said bottom surface of said support head;

wherein the lower surface of the cleaning pad comprises a substantially flat lower cleaning surface and at least two cleaning surfaces extending from said lower cleaning surface wherein said at least two cleaning surfaces are non-parallel to said substantially flat lower cleaning surface and wherein said substantially flat lower cleaning surface and said at least two cleaning surfaces define at least three discrete cleaning surfaces each of which being adapted to contact the surface being cleaned.

Claims 28 through 31 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 32. (Original) The cleaning implement of Claim 27 wherein the scrubbing layer is in direct fluid communication with the absorbent layer.

Claim 33. (Previously Amended) The cleaning implement of Claim 27 wherein the absorbent layer is positioned between the scrubbing layer and the attachment layer.

Claim 34. (Original) The cleaning implement of Claim 33 wherein the scrubbing layer is in direct fluid communication with the absorbent layer.

Claims 35 through 60 (Previously Cancelled)

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Claim 61. (*Previously Amended*) A cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension, and wherein the cleaning pad comprises a superabsorbent material.

Claim 62. (*Original*) The cleaning pad of Claim 61 wherein the cleaning pad comprises a scrubbing layer and an absorbent layer.

Claim 63. (*Original*) The cleaning pad of Claim 62 wherein the absorbent layer comprises at least about 15%, by weight of the absorbent layer, of the superabsorbent material.

Claim 64. (*Original*) The cleaning pad of Claim 62 wherein the scrubbing layer is in direct fluid communication with the absorbent layer.

Claim 65. (*Original*) The cleaning pad of Claim 64 wherein the cleaning pad further comprises an attachment layer for mechanically attaching the cleaning pad to a handle of a cleaning implement, and wherein the absorbent layer is positioned between the scrubbing layer and the attachment layer.

Claim 66. (*Original*) The cleaning pad of Claim 61 wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of superabsorbent gelling polymers and hydrophilic polymeric absorbent foams.

Claim 67. (*Original*) The cleaning pad of Claim 61 wherein the lower surface of the cleaning pad comprises two or more discrete surfaces each of which contact the surface being cleaned.